

ROSELAWN READER

Winter 2016
Issue 1

A newsletter for friends of Roselawn Cemetery 803 Larpenteur Ave Roseville, MN 55113
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Roselawn Cemetery Volume One

Welcome to the first issue of the Cemetery Reader. This newsletter provides information and event schedules. It contains a "Meet the Leadership" section, as well as a few articles.

1902 A Good Place to Start

The cemetery was first established in 1902. Here are a few facts about 1902 to set the stage for what life was like in 1902.

- Only 14 Percent of the homes in the US had a bathtub. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools
- Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.
- The average life expectancy in the US was forty-seven.
- The five leading causes of death in the US were:
 1. Pneumonia and influenza
 2. Tuberculosis
 3. Diarrhea
 4. Heart disease
 5. Stroke
- One in ten US adults couldn't read or write.

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Roselawn Chapel

According to the log book the first meeting was held April 12, 1902. It was agreed upon to establish the name of Roselawn Cemetery for the purpose of procuring and holding lands to be used exclusively for a cemetery or place of the burial of the dead. Present at the meeting was Henry Wenzell, John Townsend, Francis Tiffany, Frederick Montort, Edward Young, William White and J Powell Moore. The first deed was issued to Henry Wenzell for 400 square feet in the amount of ten dollars November 27, 1903. In 1904 2 deeds were issued and in 1905 16 deeds were issued. The first burial was made June 23rd, 1904. That year 8 burials were made. The following year 1905, 19 burials. Original deed books, Meeting Minutes, and original burial logs are stored in the safe on cemetery grounds. They are treasured books that add a glimpse insight into the foundation of a century old cemetery. You are welcome to stop in the office to have a personal look.

Letter from the President of the Board of Trustees, Scott J. Spaeth

As this is Roselawn's first broad communication to our patrons, friends and the community in general, I thought it best to introduce myself and the attributes of the cemetery. As the current president of Roselawn, I am honored to follow a long list of my predecessors. It is an honor to chair the board of trustees at Roselawn and take very seriously the task at hand. Through and with the board's efforts, Roselawn understands our rich history as well as our beautiful environment that provides both peace and dignity for our patrons. It is no accident that Roselawn and our beautiful surroundings continue to bring praise for how they are so lovingly maintained. I truly appreciate the work of my predecessors in their efforts to foresee these possibilities and helped forged their reality. As president, I understand the need to continue with a constant vigilance directed to our historic buildings of Cass Gilbert and their maintenance but also with an eye on the future. The future of cemeteries in general are confronted with many tasks. They include the need to remain current in all offerings of memorial types from traditional full burial to the ever increasing emphasis on cremation. We at Roselawn like to say we can provide and furnish everything a patron might desire in regards to memorials. This is our task and it will continue to be so in a highly changing and competitive marketplace. It is my pledge to you that Roselawn will do all it can to continue to bring you the best we can offer in your time of need. All of this will be done in a very dignified and peaceful manner conducted by a very experienced staff. It is also a pledge that Roselawn will continue to maintain and build upon its community presence locally as well as metro wide and yes, even nationally. As a life long competitive sailor, you can count on me to maintain a "steady hand on the tiller" as we together at Roselawn continue to build on our past and forge new opportunities for memories in the future.



Don and Scott Spaeth

Get to Know Cemetery Larry

Interview with Superintendent by Becky Ackerman
Cemetery Board Secretary

Larry Hudella, known as Cemetery Larry, has been a part of Roselawn Cemetery for the last forty-two years. He started as a grounds man, then became maintenance man, then Assistant Superintendent, and in 1990 was appointed Superintendent. He is in charge of daily operations, the selling of lots and the overseeing of funerals. One of the high points of his career was when Roselawn made the cover of the *American Cemetery* magazine. The article highlighted all of the cremation features that he built over the years. The rise in the number of cremations has been the biggest change he has seen in the industry. The most rewarding part of his job is working with the families. Helping families deal with the loss of a loved one is not a job that just anyone can do well. Larry makes sure that the families know all of the burial options

available and does whatever he can to help them in making their decision. He has a gift of making people feel at ease. He wants them to feel better when they leave than when they came.

Larry is married to Debby, his wife of forty-four years. He has four children and five grandchildren. In his free time he likes to hunt and golf.



Larry, Daughter Sheri and Granddaughter Vivian

"The flowers may fade, but the memories will last forever." Quote from Cemetery Larry

Cemeteries Can Be Fun...Cemetery Trivia Questions

1. What term do cemetery enthusiasts use to describe their hobby of exploring a cemetery?

- A. Tomb hopping
- B. Graving
- C. Cemetery visiting
- D. History Hunting

2. Which of these purposes would be a good reason to explore a cemetery?

- A. Historical purposes
- B. Genealogical purposes
- C. Architectural purposes
- D. All of these would be a good reason to explore a cemetery

3. If some one dares to clean a gravestone, what items do cemetery preservationists suggest you use?

- A. Acid and a lighter
- B. A hammer and a chisel
- C. Water and a soft bristled brush
- D. Harsh chemicals

4. What did you find if you discovered a "zinker" while visiting a cemetery?

- A. A gravestone made from zinc
- B. The gate to a crypt
- C. A pot used to hold artificial flowers
- D. A pine tree planted by a grave

5. While exploring a cemetery, you find a grave marker with the letters "WOW" inscribed on it. What did you find?

- A. A really big grave marker
- B. A grave marker provided by the Woodmen of the World
- C. A gravestone provided to members of the Wild Old Women Club
- D. The grave of Willy Oldham Wonka team.

Trivia questions from funtrivia.com

Question 1: The correct answer is Graving

"Graving" is a hobby that is increasing in popularity. Although some people may find this hobby a little weird a growing number of people enjoy the hobby of finding and photographing graves in order to preserve history and family ancestries

Question 2: The correct answer is All of these would be a good reason to explore a cemetery

There is much history in cemeteries. Many "gravers" have a particular interest when searching cemeteries. Some seek out the graves of the rich and famous, Civil War veterans etc. Many genealogists explore cemeteries in search of information to help trace their family's roots. Those interested in architecture also explore cemeteries to view the many different styles of structural design that can be found on tombs.

Question 3: Water and a soft bristled brush

Using anything but water and a soft bristled brush could seriously damage the gravestone. If a gravestone cannot be cleaned with these items, than it is best to leave it alone or call a professional preservationist.

Question 4: The correct answer is A gravestone made from zinc

Zinkers were manufactured from 1873 to about 1920. The Monumental Bronze Company located in Bridgeport, Connecticut was the largest manufacturer. They were designed to look like the more expensive granite and marble headstones, but were actually made of zinc by using a metal casting process. The zinc gave them a bluish white color, so they are often referred to as white bronze markers.

Question 5: The correct answer is A grave marker provided by the Woodmen of the World

Woodmen of the World is an American fraternal insurance company. Beginning in the 1880s the insurance company would provide the widow of a deceased client \$100 and a free gravestone if the logo of the insurance company could be put on the stone. The "Woodmen of the World" logo traditionally WOW had four objects on them: the Maul, Axe, Wedge and Dove. The motto "Dum Tacet Clamat". Latin meaning "though silent, he speaks", also appeared on many WOW gravestones. Styles and sizes of the stone varied greatly throughout the years. The practice was phased out in the 1920's due to prohibitive costs.

Postage

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Cemetery



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Recipient
Mailing address

ROSELAWN READER

Events For 2016

For more information go to
our website

www.roselawncemetery.com

or like us on Facebook

March

- Easter Sunrise Service
- by Centennial Methodist Church

May

- Memorial Weekend Organ Concerts
- Historical Display and VFW/American Legion Service

June/July

- Dedication Ceremony
- Veterans' Memorial

Aug/Sept

- Car Show
- Details to come

December

- Christmas Concert